

The Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The members of the General Assembly, which met in Columbia yesterday, had as well get down to business. Taxes must be reduced in South Carolina, and the burdens of taxation must be distributed among the people and corporations liable thereto on an equitable basis.

We have stated, and we state again, that in our judgment, the banks, cotton mills and railroad corporations are bearing more than their proportionate share of the taxes. We may be wrong as to one or more of these classes of corporations. On that subject we are open to conviction. But that dispute being laid aside, there are inequalities between corporations of the same class, and between individuals owning the same kinds of property, which should be adjusted.

Over Taxation.

But the inequality of taxation is not a greater evil than over taxation. The General Assembly has been creating too many offices, and electing too many officers. We do not say that the object of the offices created is not good, nor that the officers are not good men; but we do say that the people of this state have passed through a period of depression which has sorely tried them; they have denied themselves the luxuries and many of the necessities of life in order to pay their debts, and they are not yet out of the woods. They are entitled to some relief at the hands of the General Assembly, and the members of that body should use the pruning knife wherever it is possible.

Some Suggestions.

The State Board of Charities and Corrections should be dispensed with. The people at home should take a hand in the matters over which this Board holds jurisdiction. The Board may be doing a good work, but the people cannot be taxed for every matter what promises good results.

The State High School law is an iniquity which should not longer be inflicted upon the people of the state. We refer to the law by which a sum of money is appropriated for the support of high schools in communities and villages of less than one thousand population. As it is now, the people of Abbeville and Abbeville County, are being taxed to help support the high schools in Due West, Lown-desville, McCormick and other schools, the patrons of which are as able to pay for the education of their children as we are. The fact is that if they levied as much taxes as we levy to support our own schools, there would be no necessity for state help. The people of this district are already, under the law, forced to give to the other schools of the county about one-half of the constitutional three mill tax levied in our district. After we have done this it seems a little inequitable that we should contribute to an appropriation for the support of the needy schools of the state, and then contribute to the support of all the higher institutions of learning, and then again to the high schools of the state other than our own, especially when we get nothing thereby for ourselves.

More Self-Reliance.

Every tub should stand on its own bottom. If the lands in the rural districts were assessed on the same basis as our lands, or lots, the needy school districts would have money; and if they did not have enough, they could raise it by levying a tax equal to ours. Then why should we be called on to support our own schools and all the other schools of the state. It will not do to follow a lot of impracticable school men in these matters. The General Assembly must tell the people to bear their own burdens. They are untrue to their trust if these burdens are thrust on others without their consent. The people should be taught to rely on themselves, and not to look to other people to carry their burdens.

Tax Commission.

The State Tax Commission should go. The General Assembly should apportion the amount of state taxes to be raised between the several counties on some equitable basis, and leave each county to work out its own troubles about assessments, etc. If this cannot be done under the constitution the constitution should be amended to permit it. No three men in the state will ever be able to make an equitable adjustment of the tax troubles. The next call upon the tax-payers will be for about three salaried men in each county to assist the State Board, and there will be more appropriations and more offices

and more officers.

The Warehouse System.

The State Warehouse System has no place in a democratic government, and we are sorry to see Governor Manning endorse it. Just now we believe that the system is in the hands of a man capable of getting some good for the people out of the system, and we go further and say that we believe he is earnestly trying to help the cotton farmers of the state. But when we asked him what was to become of the Warehouse system when he was gone, he "passed," and so will every one else, unless he is prepared to acknowledge that it will eventually become a political snap for some politician to grab up, and make a good living out of, while spending barrels of the people's money. The Dispensary system did good, but it became in the end a political machine, and productive of all kinds of graft. The same good which can be gotten out of a warehouse system operated by the state, can be gotten out of a system operated by individuals under proper restrictions. The warehouse business is as much a business for the people themselves as is banking, merchandising, railroading, or anything else. The business is new and must be regulated. A lot of rough places must be smoothed, but they will be smoothed. There is no more need for a state-owned cotton warehouse than for a state-owned tobacco warehouse, or corn warehouse or hay warehouse. We could all figure where the tobacco, corn, or hay farmer would prosper if the state would provide a system of collecting these products and selling them for the owners.

Scholarships and Tuition.

The legislature should discontinue the system of awarding scholarships in state institutions for several reasons. A sufficient one is that the really needy persons are rarely benefited by these awards. Someone usually gets the plum who is entirely able to educate himself, or who has parents who are able, and those most needy are left to hustle for themselves. Any young man with enough education to enter a college of this state may educate himself if he is worthy of an education. The granting of scholarships has a tendency to turn out a class of individuals trained to expect something from the state, which should not be.

Every student in a state institution should be required to pay tuition. There is no longer any excuse for the state to give a young man or woman free instruction in the institutions of higher learning. The tuition is not a great amount and can be easily paid; if all paid, the amount could be easily reduced. There are too many men educating their children at the expense of people who have never been inside of an institution of higher learning, and whose children cannot hope to enter one. The fact is that too many boys and girls, who are liable, escape the payment of tuition in all these institutions. We are in favor of all paying.

The burdens of taxation have reached the limit. A cry is beginning to go up which will echo around the state. The amount of taxes now being demanded is little short of a hold-up. A halt must be called. The legislature should get down to the job and reduce taxes; and if they cannot, or will not do so, then an opportunity will present itself to Governor Manning, of which we hope he will avail himself. If he does not, he will hear from his failure to do so on the stump, and when the votes are counted.

If This Insect Had Wings!

You can excuse a child for calling a whale a fish, but listen to this youngster, who is reported in the Boston Transcript:

Child at Library—Please give me a book on whales.

A book on natural history with a chapter devoted to whales is brought. The Child—Oh, I don't mean a book on the insect. I mean the country!"

Simple Directions.

"My dear," said she, "please run and bring me the needle from the haystack."

"I don't know which haystack."

"Look in all the haystacks. You can't miss it. There's only one needle."

—From "More Jonathan Papers."

Woman's Desire to Attract.

Owing to the system under which we live, where man is a valuable prey, woman has contracted the habit of trying to attract. Even aggressive insolence on her part may conceal the desire to attract by exasperating.—W. L. George in Atlantic.

Has to Be.

"Our alimony club is very economical."

"Well, it goes without saying that an alimony club has to husband its means."

—Baltimore American.

Classified.

"How would you classify a telephone girl? Is hers a business or a profession?"

"Neither; it is a calling."—Christian Register.

Provide for the worst; the best will save itself.

EVOLUTION OF A WORD.

"Hypocrite" Was Once the Title of a Pantomime Actor.

Do you know what a hypocrite is? Why, he is a person who uses the church as a cloak to cover graft and greed and all manner of evil-doing. At least that is what he was in the days of our fathers. More recently he has taken on another color, a different kind of cloak. He need not be a dissembler merely in the matter of religion. Hypocrisy may be practiced in friendship, in culture, in philanthropy. It goes a degree further even than that, for the hypocrite may deceive himself as well as his fellow man.

But how did the word, which is obviously a compound of "hypo," meaning "under," and the very familiar "critic" come to mean a person who deceives either himself or other people? This question suggests a second one: What is a critic?

The Greek verb from which the noun was derived meant originally to analyze, separate or judge. So the critic came to be one who had been set apart or judged worthy to plead a cause or present an argument. At one stage of his evolution the critic was a person who recited the works of the great dramatists. He was an actor—who did not act. The gestures were supplied by a man trained for that purpose, who went through a sort of pantomime, while the real interpreter of the part gave the melodiously intoned words.

The pantomime artist was a "hypocrite" because he played an under part to the "critic." Later, when the speaking and acting were done by the same person, he was called the "hypocrite." Now any one who plays a part not his own is practicing hypocrisy.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

ANCIENT MEALTIMES.

When They Rose at 5, Dined at 9 and Supped at 5.

The change in mealtimes is evidenced by the old rhyme:

To rise at five and dine at nine,
To sup at five and bed at nine,
Will make a man live to ninety-nine.

But one suspected that the change is in the names of the meals rather than in the hours. Our ancestors would have termed our luncheon dinner and our dinner supper. It is a curious fact that in some of the Oxford colleges, where the founders made allowances for the meals of the students, a much larger sum is allotted for supper than for dinner, implying that the former was the more substantial meal. Taken at 5 or 6 o'clock, it was really "early dinner."

Some particulars of the mealtimes of our ancestors may be found in William Harrison's "Description of England," published in 1587:

"With us the nobility, gentry and students do ordinarily go to dinner at 11 before noon and to supper at 5 or between 5 and 6 at afternoon. The merchants dine and sup seldom before 12 at noon and 6 at night, especially in London. The husbandmen dine also at high noon, as they call it, and sup at 7 or 8, but out of the term in our universities the scholars dine at 10. As for the poorest sort, they generally dine and sup when they may, so that to talk of their order of repast it were but a needless matter."—London Chronicle.

Melbourne, a City That Planned.

There is and always has been a great amount of public spirit in Melbourne, due, in large part, to the Scotch element that has predominated from the beginning. "The first citizens, led by Scots, as a rule, set to work with magnificent faith in the future. A city was planned worthy of being the capital of 10,000,000 people, and the public buildings were designed on the same generous scale. The soil on the site was deep and rich. That suggested tree planting, and most of the streets are today relieved by handsome foliage, and the parks which ring the city round have trees worthy of the forests of Europe. The avenue of elms in Fitzroy gardens certainly represents that tree at its best.—Bishop E. E. Hoss in Dallas News.

The Blind Man's Lantern.

A blind man in Khotha (a Caucasian village) came back from the river one night bringing a pitcher of water and carrying in his hand a lighted lantern. Some one meeting him said: "You're blind. It's all the same to you whether it's day or night. Of what use to you is a lantern?" "I don't carry the lantern in order to see the road," replied the blind man, "but to keep some fool like you from running against me and breaking my pitcher."

Not a Gay One.

"Do you believe all men are gay deceivers?" asked Mrs. Twobble. "No, indeed," answered Mrs. Dubwaite. "There's Mr. Dubwaite, for instance."

"Yes?"

"In his efforts to deceive me he even goes so far as to shed tears."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Antagonists.

How many who have deemed themselves antagonists will smile hereafter when they look back upon the world's wide harvest field and perceive that in unconscious brotherhood they were helping to bind the selfsame sheaf!—Hawthorne.

No Escape.

Bella—I understand your sister married a struggling young man? Gus—Yes; he struggled hard, but he couldn't get away from her.

Man is an imitative creature, and whoever is foremost leads the herd.—Schiller.

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